Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of assessing cognitive impairment of a user comprising the steps of:

(a) presenting a visual test stimulus to the user for a pre-determined test stimulus exposure duration;

(b) masking the test stimulus by placing a mask over or in place of the entire visual test stimulus;

(c) measuring a response from the user, the response providing information about (i) the user's perception of a characteristic of the test stimulus, and (ii) a response time taken for the user to respond;

(d) repeating steps (a) to (c) to develop a user profile; and

(e) comparing the user profile with a reference profile, and thereby assessing cognitive impairment in the user.

2. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein step (d) comprises repeating steps (a) to (c) for a range of pre-determined test stimulus exposure durations.

3. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein step (a) comprises presenting a focal point stimulus to the user before presenting the visual test stimulus to the user.

4. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, comprising calculating, for each pre-determined test stimulus exposure duration of step (a), a representative error rate that represents a proportion of responses measured in step (c) which are inaccurate.

5. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 4, wherein the user profile of (d) comprises an error rate curve charting the representative error rate relative to pre-determined test stimulus exposure duration.

6. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 4 wherein calculating the representative error rate comprises calculating a mean error for responses at each pre-determined test stimulus exposure duration.

7. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, comprising calculating, for each pre-determined test stimulus exposure duration, a mean response time .

8. (Previously presented) method according to claim 7, wherein the user profile of (d) comprises a response rate curve charting mean response time relative to pre-determined test stimulus exposure duration.

9. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein repetitions of step (a) are separated by a uniform time interval.

10. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the reference profile is generated from data that are selected from the group consisting of:

(a) data obtained from a reference group comprising cognitively normal individuals, and

(b) data previously generated by the user.

11. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the pre-determined test stimulus exposure duration is between 10 ms and 300 ms.

12. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the user has a choice of two different responses for responding to each test stimulus.

13. (Original) A method according to claim 12, wherein one of two or more different test stimuli are presented to the user in step (a).

14. (Original) A method according to claim 13, wherein each of the test stimuli are presented an equal number of times.

15. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the test stimulus is masked by a mask that comprises at least one filled circle or curved line.

16. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 15, wherein the mask comprises an image having a plurality of filled circles or parts thereof.

17. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 15, wherein the mask comprises an image having a plurality of curved lines or parts thereof.

18. (Currently amended) A method of assessing visual impairment of a user, comprising the steps of:

(a) presenting a visual test stimulus to the user for a pre-determined test stimulus exposure duration;

(b) masking the test stimulus by placing a mask over or in place of the entire visual test stimulus;

(c) measuring a response from the user, the response providing information about (i) the user's perception of specific characteristics of the test stimulus, and (ii) response time taken for the user to respond;

(d) repeating steps (a) to (c) to develop a user profile, wherein the pre-determined test stimulus exposure duration has a duration equal to the duration of the pre-determined test stimulus exposure duration of (a); and

(e) comparing the user profile with a reference profile to assess visual impairment of the user.

19. (Previously presented) A method of assessing visual impairment of a user according to claim 18 wherein step (a) comprises presenting a focal point stimulus to the user before presenting the visual test stimulus to the user.

20. (Currently amended) A method of assessing cognitive impairment of a user, comprising the steps of:

(a) presenting a visual test stimulus to the user for a pre-determined test stimulus exposure duration;

(b) masking the test stimulus by placing a mask over or in place of the entire visual test stimulus;

(c) measuring a response from the user, the response comprising:

i. a response time; and

ii. either a correct or an incorrect indication of the visual test stimulus;

(d) repeating steps (a) to (c) to develop a user profile; and

(e) comparing the user profile to a reference profile to assess cognitive impairment in the user.

21. (Previously presented) A method of assessing cognitive impairment of a user according to claim 20 wherein step (a) comprises presenting a focal point stimulus to the user before presenting the visual test stimulus to the user.

22. (Currently amended) A system for assessing cognitive impairment of a user, comprising:

(a) presentation means for presenting a visual test stimulus to the user for a pre-determined test stimulus exposure duration;

(b) mask means for masking or replacing the entire test stimulus after presentation of the test stimulus to the user;

(c) response measuring means for measuring a response from the user after presentation of the visual test stimulus;

(d) processing means for processing the response from the user over one or a range of pre-determined test stimulus exposure durations to develop a user profile over the range; and

(e) assessment means for comparing the user profile to a reference profile to assess cognitive impairment in the user.

23. (Previously presented) A system for assessing cognitive impairment of a user according to claim 22 further comprising focal point presentation means for presenting a focal point stimulus to the user.

24. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 22 wherein the mask comprises an image having a plurality of filled circles or curved lines or parts thereof.

25. (Previously presented) A method according to any one of claims 1, 18 and 20, wherein the user profile comprises a response curve.